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ABSTRACT

Drama and role playing are effective ways for teachers, school counselors, and other individuals who work with young people to teach and discuss sensitive issues. The eight plays in this publication are designed to help middle school students develop critical-thinking, problem-solving, and logical decision-making skills. The eight scripts use a student-centered, hands-on approach, and provide opportunities to consider difficult problems and make choices in the decisions for the plays' endings. The plays are designed to enhance existing curriculum. Each chapter focuses on a single issue: alcoholism, suicide, divorce and family life, eating disorders, peer pressure, responsible dating, stress and anger, and special education. Background information on the subject is given, followed by a play involving 10 to 15 characters. Students are free to develop the characters according to the way they see them and to create a solution for the ending of the play. Discussion questions and ten enhancement lessons are included, along with references at the end of each chapter. (ND)

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